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ABSTRACT

This collection of 29 articles is devoted to the question of "what works" in regard to parental involvement. The two main objectives in compiling this volume were: (1) to provide general information about successful strategies and programs to interested educators and parents; and (2) to offer context-specific, "tailored" suggestions to diverse groups of people concerned about parental involvement. Chapter 1 offers a general overview of what works when it comes to parental involvement in school. Chapter 2 focuses on the middle and secondary levels, based on the rationale that it is at these levels of schooling where parental involvement frequently declines and is most difficult to foster and/or maintain. Chapter 3 is dedicated to diverse groups of students, parents, and communities, providing examples of successful programs for urban parents, parents of at-risk students, and parents of diverse ethnic, racial, and linguistic backgrounds. Chapter 4 represents a mixture of writings related to "specialty themes" ranging from how communications technology can be used for the purpose of improving parental involvement in school to the question of how to combine seemingly contradictory goals, such as teacher empowerment and parental involvement in school. (RT)

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